GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1220
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2007
RISE IN PRICES OF EDIBLE OIL
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

e:

(a) whether the prices of groundnut and sun flower oil shot up steeply during the recent festival season leading to a cascading effect on other edible oil;

(b) if so, the reasons for sudden spurt in prices of these oil;

(c) whether the Government proposes to import edible oil on a large scale to meet the current shortage and to stabilise the prices of edible oil in the country; and

(d) if so, the quantity of oil proposed to be imported and the estimated cost thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): The prices of groundnut oil and sunflower oil have increased marginally during the recent festival season i.e. by about 4% in the last one month. However, groundnut oil prices have declined by about 10% whereas sunflower oil prices have gone up by about 15% in the last three months.

(b): The rise in prices may be due to the following reasons:-

(i) Increase in the prices of edible oils in the international market.

(ii) Low estimated production of oilseeds in the oil year 2006-07 (Nov.-Oct.) as compared to production of previous year.

(c) & (d): Government have no plans to import edible oils on a large scale. Import of oilseeds/edible oils except copra/coconut oil has been allowed on Open General Licence (OGL) and import duty have been adjusted to ensure adequate availability and stabilize prices of edible oils in the country.